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ABSTRACT

This booklet recognizes the achievements of 23 exceptional distance study graduates who were selected by the distance education institutions they attended. Selection criteria include the graduates' academic records and the level and quality of their contribution to society and to their chosen profession. Brief biographies are provided for the 23 outstanding graduates (with their distance institutions: Allard J.E. Wagemaker (American Military University); Lauren and Laila Scharf (American School); Kelvin J. Curtiss (Army Institute for Professional Development); Marianna Levant (Art Instructor Schools); Charles W. Brown, III (Berean University); Rachel Principe (The Boyd School); Joyce Todd (California College for Health Sciences); Francis X. Enderle (Catholic Distance University); Jennifer Freeman (Cleveland Institute of Electronics); Robert M. Frey (College for Financial Planning); Patricia Ann Steele (Gemological Institute of America); Steve S. Cerowski (Grantham College of Engineering); Rebecca Jane Greavu (Home Study International); Harry and Sandra Van Horn (Hospitality Training Center); Steven Smull (ICS Learning Systems); Tan Guat Hiang (International Management Centre); John O. Miller (ISIM University); Shawn C. Hughes (Marine Corps Institute); Carol A. Berryhill (National Institute for Paralegal Arts and Sciences); Catherine H. Hoffman (Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville, Inc.); Matt Brown (Trans World Travel Academy); David T. Drum (U.S. Coast Guard Institute); and Joseph D. Laskowski (World College). (YLB)

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ED 407 552

The Distance Education and Training Council

Salutes the 1997 OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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Introduction

Distance study (or correspondence or home study) education has flourished for more than a century in America and long before that in Europe. Since distance education's beginning, well over 100 million men and women have studied by correspondence. To recognize the achievements of the millions who study at a distance today, the Distance Education and Training Council conducts an "Outstanding Graduate" program each year.

Twenty-three exceptional distance study graduates were selected by the distance education institutions they attended. Selection criteria included the graduates' academic records and the level and quality of their contributions to society and to their chosen professions.

This is the tenth consecutive year that the DETC has given national recognition to distance study graduates. Over these years, more than 420 graduates have collectively added to the ever-growing and impressive tradition of distance education: excellence in educational accomplishment. They are men and women who have distinguished themselves in their careers and in society. These graduates are irrefutable evidence that distance study is truly a viable educational option.

We join with all the DETC accredited schools in saluting the outstanding achievements of these unique men and women who represent more than three million correspondence students now studying with DETC schools. Distance study's story is best told by the achievements of these twenty-three outstanding graduates.

Michael P. Lambert
Executive Director

January 1997

Allard J.E. Wagemaker

The Netherlands

. . . studied with bullets flying

Captain Allard J.E. Wagemaker was one of the first students to enroll in American Military University's Master of Arts in Military Studies degree program. He is a graduate of the Royal Netherlands Naval Academy and heard of AMU while on exchange duty with the U.S. Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

He continued his studies even after returning to the Netherlands from his exchange tour, eventually completing his program in April 1996 with an overall grade point average of 3.9. He was able to keep up his studies even "with bullets flying all around" him while he was serving with NATO forces in Sarajevo.

Captain Wagemaker's current assignment is as an instructor at the Royal Netherlands Marines' officer school. He recently noted that this assignment was made as a direct result of his graduate studies and his AMU degree. Captain Wagemaker and his wife, Linda, live in Wijk bij Duurstede, Netherlands.

"Next to the air-conditioning in the North Carolinian summer heat, in a tent during a winter expedition in Utah, or in war zone Sarajevo just a block away from Sniper alley; no matter what situation I was in, I was always in a studying mood!"

Lauren and Laila Scharf

Deltona, Florida

. . . double music majors

Lauren and Laila Scharf chose American School for their high school. They enrolled with American School in October 1990, and they maintained averages in the 90's throughout their entire high school program. As twins, they have similar interests, and all their lives they loved music.

They graduated from American School in 1994. After completing two years of volunteer community service, they were given scholarships to Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. The scholarships were awarded based upon both their academic abilities and their musical talent. Laila is planning on a double major in art and music. Lauren's goal is to specialize in music therapy. They are both music majors.

Their brother, Ian, is following in their footsteps. Currently he is enrolled in American School's high school program and plans to attend Rollins College when he graduates. He, also, wants to major in music.

"We feel strongly that the American School can and does prepare people for the rigors of college. We both feel that the discipline required to study at home has prepared us for our college classes."

Kelvin J. Curtiss

Bad Kreuznach, Germany

. . . improves knowledge and skills

While deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, Sergeant First Class Kelvin J. Curtiss' mission included maintenance and repair of more than 107 wheeled vehicles, 59 communication shelters and 60 power generators, worth in excess of $40 million. He enrolled in the Army Institute for Professional Development's Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP) to enhance his knowledge in management and logistics while maintaining proficiency in his military occupational specialty.

In less than 18 months, Sergeant Curtiss completed more than 32 different courses within ACCP while maintaining a 3.6 grade point average. He is currently enrolled in Individual Subcourses and the Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer Course and has completed more than 90 semester hours with the University of Maryland.

In his 18 years in the Army, Sergeant Curtiss has been selected twice to work special assignments. In addition his awards include the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Award, the Good Conduct Medal, the Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the National Defense Service Ribbon and the Mechanics Badge.

"The skills and knowledge I have obtained from ACCP courses has enriched my ability to progress effectively as a trainer, counselor and leader. Education through ACCP is a self-paced road to success and fulfillment."

Marianna Levant

Dallas, Texas

. . . award winner artist

Marianna Levant has won numerous awards, honors and recognition for her artwork. She contributes much of her art success to her training with Art Instruction Schools.

Marianna's artwork was chosen to represent the City of Dallas at the state capitol for Youth Art Month. She won the Grand Prize in the Street Art Contest, including a $1,000 scholarship. Marianna has participated in the Reflections Program, an annual high school art competition, receiving First Place for four years. Her artwork has been published in the *Richardson ISD Literary* magazine and *The Dallas Morning News*. Marianna has worked as an artist for Vocabulary Enterprises where she created forty illustrations for special vocabulary flash cards and pictures for a video.

In 1989, Marianna and her family moved from St. Petersburg, Russia to Texas. Currently a senior in high school, she maintains a 4.0 G.P.A. She studies piano and is active in the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, French Club and Art Club. Marianna has been accepted at Pratt Institute in New York City where she will continue her study of art. In addition to her studies, she does extensive volunteer work. She has designed numerous posters, banners, signs, etc. for school and other organizations.

"From the Art Instruction Schools course, I learned the vital core of drawing and rendering. This core allowed me to improve my artwork quality and continue my exploration of art on a professional level."

Charles W. Brown, III

Ft. Myers, Florida

. . . plans to establish a church

Florida expects an influx of 4 million people in the first decade of the 21st century. With this increase will come an increase in problems: more divorces, more alcoholism, more heartaches, and more diseases. For Charles W. Brown, III, earning his degree from Berean University of the Assemblies of God gives him an opportunity for ministry.

When Charles ordered his first course from Berean University in 1990, he had no idea his studies would lead him to a change in vocation. He first heard about Berean through his pastor, and he enrolled simply to enrich his knowledge of the Bible. While studying and managing his business, Charles was also teaching, preaching, and serving as deacon and treasurer in the churches he attended in Maryland.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Theology from Berean University with 128 credit hours, Charles sold both his house and business and moved his family to Florida. His goal is to establish a church in the Ft. Myers area where he can help those who are emotionally troubled.

"Anytime I needed help as a distance education student, I would just call Berean and a staff member was always glad to assist me and answer my questions. Personal notes of encouragement came from staff members at times when I was ready to stop studying and was giving up hope of finishing the course."

Rachel Principe

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

. . . changes career

Rachel Principe fits the normal profile of a distance education student. She wanted to change her career while continuing to work full-time. The Boyd School Travel Lab gave her that opportunity. It provided her with a well-rounded curriculum in the travel industry, from geography to agency policies and procedures. Rachel now owns her own business, "Places To Go Travel & Cruise Agency," in Pittsburgh.

Credited with not only being a successful agent, Rachel is also a good agent. She says that when her clients go on vacation, they know exactly what to do and where to go. Giving her clients that extra help not only gives Rachel the personal satisfaction, but also helps to build her business and expand her clientele.

Rachel has gone on to receive her CLIA Accredited Achievement and is currently taking courses to receive her CTC. She is a member of the American Society of Travel Agents, and in October, she was the Director of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Outside Sales Support Network.

"When I think back to my days of being a student in the Travel Lab Program, my excitement of working in travel heightens. I just love working with people and talking about all the exciting destinations they want to visit."

Joyce Todd

Chico, California

. . . committed to lifelong learning

Joyce Todd, a graduate of California College for Health Sciences' Masters program in Community Health Administration and Wellness Promotion, is a leader in her community. Since her graduation, she has been promoted to Coordinator of Services for *Options for Recovery*. Through this she has implemented programs for parents, training for care providers, and outreach education for the community regarding substance exposed babies.

Joyce also coordinates the *Recreation and Dreams for Children with Cancer* (R.A.D.) program. She is a volunteer for churches and other organizations. She is currently setting up a program called "Parish Nurse," a wellness program for the community through churches, administrated by Fantastic Hospital.

In her personal life, Joyce participates in fitness programs and hosts exchange students from other countries. She is a single parent with one son. In high school she was named "Female Athlete of the Year," and she continues exercising by jogging, lifting weights, and windsurfing (her favorite sport).

"Although CCHS provided a valuable education for me, it is only a part of the larger process of learning and self-growth. I hope to continue down the path of gaining information and tools for increased wellness while assisting others down the same path."

Francis X. Enderle

Rota, Spain

. . . a Godsend

Deacon Frank Enderle began his career with the Catholic Distance University in 1989 during his deaconate formation program for the Archdiocese of Washington while serving as a Naval Officer stationed in Washington, D.C. Since that time, CDU has awarded Deacon Enderle the Catechetical Diploma in 1996 for successfully completing 12 courses, a comprehensive examination and a Catechetical project.

Not only has Deacon Enderle used his CDU courses to enrich his own background in religious studies, but in 1996 he organized the first CDU Parish Plan Program in Spain to provide an organized Adult Education Program for three American parishes. He and his wife, Susan, also conduct Marriage and Baptism preparation classes.

Deacon Enderle holds a BA degree from the University of Maryland and has completed graduate work towards an MA in Pastoral Theology. He recently retired after 27 years in the Navy and currently works as Director of Religious Education for an American Military parish and a civilian parish is Rota, Spain.

"I was looking for other ways to increase my knowledge and finally selected the distance study format with CDU. CDU gave me the opportunity to attain the knowledge I was looking for in theology. I continue to use that knowledge every time I have a class or counsel a parishioner. Never was the word 'godsend' more appropriate!"

Jennifer Freeman

Cookeville, Tennessee

. . . she's now a professional

Working at the Putnam County Library as a cataloger's assistant, Jennifer was determined to get a better, higher-paying job. She enrolled in Cleveland Institute of Electronics' Associate Degree program and in three and one-half years earned her degree in Electronics Engineering Technology.

As Jennifer progressed through the program she began repairing some of the equipment around the library. Soon every department was calling her for help. One day, she received a call at home from the library director asking her to head the library's automation project. Jennifer received a 21% raise and a new title, Automation Coordinator. She says that she uses almost everything she learned from her CIE courses, from problem solving to practical electronics to communications with coworkers.

Taking a distance education course allowed Jennifer to keep her full-time job, keep up with her home responsibilities, volunteer with a medical study on AIDS vaccines, and still have leisure time.

"Every dollar that I spent on my electronics courses goes directly to the public from my work in the library. The money that I've saved the library is redirected to getting more information services for people in our county. Taking CIE's distance education program has taught me that if I take the time to learn a little every day, it turns into a lot of knowledge that opens many doors."

Robert M. Frey
Bozeman, Montana

. . . improves his life

Although Robert M. Frey was already successful in the world of business, he wanted to enhance his knowledge in areas of tax, retirement and estate planning. He enrolled in the College of Financial Planning's Master of Science Degree program and after six years he graduated with a 4.0 G.P.A.

Robert has an impressive educational background: an undergraduate degree in Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; M.S. and M.Ed. degrees in Physics from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine; a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and a current student with the Army War College. He is a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Robert owned and operated two successful animal hospitals in the Northeast. After eight years, he sold the businesses and moved to Montana and became a financial and management consultant to veterinarians and small business owners. Robert provides free services to several charities to help establish planned giving programs. He is one of the founders of the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club and has served as chairman of several church financial committees. In 1994, Robert raised more than $4,000 for the Leukemia Society of America by running in the San Francisco Marathon.

"The knowledge I obtained from the Master of Science Program has helped me both professionally and personally."

Patricia Ann Steele

Phoenix, Arizona

. . . most gratifying experience

Ms. Patricia Ann Steele had never heard of Gemological Institute of America until she bought a diamond and had it appraised by GIA. Having always been intrigued by the beauty, mystery, and origin of gemstones, Patricia decided to enroll in GIA's Graduate Gemologist program. She graduated after two years with a 98 percent grade average.

Patricia had worked for 30 years in the high-technology world of computers and semi-conductors. Although these jobs provided a good living, she felt that the field was too susceptible to the whims of the marketplace, and she wanted more control of her future. Besides, Patricia has always dreamed of starting her own business. This became a reality in 1993 after she completed her GIA program.

Her business is called "Precious Stones, Etc., and Patricia says that it is a "most gratifying experience." She especially likes working with those who are buying—or receiving—engagement rings and other romantic gifts.

"Focused on my future, the desire for an education and career whereby I could be self-sufficient, a long-term plan was required. Without disruption to my profession, GIA's distance education program provided me that opportunity for success. After earning the coveted Graduate Gemologist's diploma and starting my own business, the gratification I've experienced has empowered me to seek additional challenges I may never have considered."

Steve S. Cerowski

Corpus Christi, Texas

. . . feels more secure in his job

When Steve Cerowski enrolled in Grantham College of Engineering's Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Technology degree program, his job as a field technician required extensive travel. Steve wanted to earn his Bachelor of Science degree and found that the only way he would be able to do so was through distance education. His degree, which he earned with a remarkable 3.86 G.P.A in 1995, enabled him to move to another company where he makes more money and doesn't have to travel as much.

Currently, Steve is a Radiology Engineer for Spohn Health System of South Texas. He ensures the smooth operation of diagnostic and therapeutic radiation equipment, consults with hospital administrators in new equipment purchases, plans equipment installations, ensures compliance with laws and standards, and he also trains junior engineers and technicians.

Steve implemented cost-saving and performance enhancing measures which saved his company an estimated $500,000. He frequently tutors students at Del Mar College and Texas A&M University on how to study successfully. He encourages them to use the methods he learned while taking the distance education courses with Grantham College of Engineering.

"My current position requires a college degree in computer or electronics engineering or a similar degree. Without my degree from Grantham, I would not have been able to meet this requirement. My Bachelor of Science degree has definitely increased my job security."

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Rebecca Jane Greavu

Portland, Tennessee

. . . free to travel

For Rebecca Jane Greavu, distance learning was a way of life. She was home schooled from 6th grade through high school. She received her entire high school education through Home Study International and was issued a college prep high school diploma on August 21, 1996. She is now attending Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Because of the flexible schedule distance study allowed her, Rebecca was able to practice her music and become an accomplished musician on the viola, as well as the violin. She has been able to be a part of the New England Youth Ensemble for the past two and a half years and travel to Europe, Israel, and Jordan representing the United States. The group has also performed at Carnegie Hall.

Rebecca has also been involved in a number of youth groups, has helped with distributing clothing to the needy in Mexico, and has done volunteer work at the local hospital. In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys writing poetry. Some of her works have been published by the National Library of Poetry. Her poem entitled, "Indian Summer Past," appeared in the book, *Between the Raindrops*.

"I never doubted that I was receiving an extremely good education from HSI, and my ACT scores reflect that. I give HSI the credit for preparing me very well for college. I have found that many of my subjects are much easier due to the hard work that was required of me during my high school years."

Harry & Sandra Van Horn

Orlando, Florida

. . . their dreams come true

Harry and Sandra Van Horn had dreamed about graduating from a motel/hotel management course. They enrolled in Motel Managers School, a division of Hospitality Training Center, and graduated in June 1995. Now they are managing the College Park Leisure Homes in Orlando, Florida.

Harry's background as a firefighter shows his interest in service and duty to the public. He also worked as a security guard and has experience in maintenance. Sandra oversaw a half million dollar budget when she worked as the Manager of House Development/Rehabilitation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Ashland, Kentucky. She is a Notary Public for the state of Florida and has a commission for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Sandra is also a member of the Habitat for Humanity's Family Selection Committee.

Last year, Sandra started a newsletter for the residents, which they enjoy immensely. Both Harry and Sandra continue to grow within the community by attending classes to become certified for the Florida Emergency Response Team which will qualify them to help in emergencies such as hurricanes and tornadoes.

"A few times something has come up in the course of our day and we've asked each other about what was said on the subject in our lessons. We've even returned to the text for the answers. A great deal of help has been derived from information contained in the program."

Steven Smull

Mebane, North Carolina

. . . inspired by bad experiences

Inspired by two bad experiences buying homes, Steven Smull decided to learn more about home inspections. After completing ICS Learning Systems' "Home Inspector" distance education program, he launched his own business and is now successfully helping others.

Steven's unique determination to achieve his goal of starting his own business lead him to complete the Home Inspector program with an average of 94%. In October 1, 1996, the state of North Carolina put into affect a law which requires all home inspectors to be licensed. Steven successfully passed the test with a score of 87%.

Smull's Home Inspection Service inspects and evaluates both residential and commercial properties for prospective buyers as well as for owners, insurance companies and lending institutions. Articles about Smull's Home Inspection Service have been published in local newspapers.

"The training I received and the information on how to start my own business from ICS has been very beneficial to me. I was tired of working for everyone else. The distance education course enabled me to study at my own pace and it allowed me to continue working until I completed the program and started my own business."

Tan Guat Hiang
Malaysia

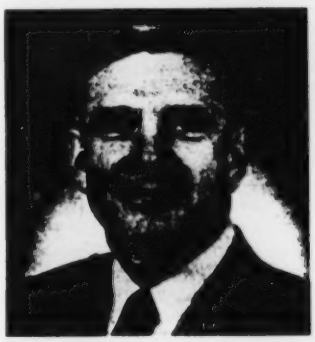
. . . earns degree and promotions

Guat Hiang's thirst for knowledge lead her to enroll in the International Management Centre's Master in Business Administration (MBA) program, and she's glad she did. Since enrolling in the program, she has received two promotions and has greatly helped her company.

Guat Hiang is currently the Business Planning Controller for Malaysia Airlines. She is responsible for the acquisition of new aircraft. Malaysia Airlines is planning to spend more than $5 billion over the next five years on new aircraft. Guat Hiang is also responsible for performance monitoring which involves compiling and analyzing information on routes performance, determining causes of poor or exceptionally good performance; and recommending appropriate remedies or reinforcement for implementation into current operations or incorporation into future plans.

Guat Hiang has applied what she learned from her MBA program and has helped her company to form separate offices, the Business Planning Department and the Aircraft Management Unit. The Business Planning Department handles the marketing and business information, and the Aircraft Management Unit handles maintenance and leasing of aircraft.

"As a wife and a mother of two teenage daughters, I was only able to complete my MBA program through distance education. IMC taught me to develop a more systematic and comprehensive thinking process, as well as being more activity oriented—an approach that will always benefit me."



John O. Miller

Goldsboro, North Carolina

. . . finest quality learning

Colonel John O. Miller realized that he needed to update his education, but the demands of his work schedule prevented him from attending a traditional college. He held a full time job in addition to serving as the Commander of an Air Force Reserve Wing, and was often away from home for temporary duty assignments. He enrolled in ISIM University's MBA program and received his Masters degree in two years with a 3.8 G.P.A.

As a result of his MBA program, John started strategic planning sessions for his Air Force Reserve Unit that produced the first comprehensive five year strategic plan for any unit in the Air Force Reserve. From that plan, evolved a living five year schedule that is posted on the unit's LAN, permitting every member of the organization immediate access to future organizational activities. John is spearheading the development of a single, comprehensive MS Access database for the entire unit, and establishing MS Project as the standard tool for project management.

John's enthusiasm for distance education has lead to adding a distance learning element in a new Junior Officer Leadership Development Program developed by a fellow reservist. He also developed and expanded his organization's LAN, which helps in disseminating information rapidly when sending aid for natural emergencies such as hurricanes and tornadoes.

"The online distance study program provided the finest quality learning program I have ever experienced."

Shawn C. Hughes

Lexington Park, Maryland

. . . completing courses have him self-confidence

From October 1995 until September 1996, Sergeant Shawn C. Hughes completed 17 distance education courses from the Marine Corps Institute. At the same time he was enrolled in Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and completed 33 semester credit hours, making the Dean's List twice.

In addition to enhancing his own professional development, Sgt. Hughes used the knowledge he gained from his MCI courses to: assist other Marines in preparing for the Quarter/Year Boards; aid in terrain recognition while flying as an aircrew member; troubleshoot as a helicopter crew chief and mechanic; manage the day-to-day operations of the maintenance work center; design balanced diets for his unit's sailors; counsel junior Marines; and teach five "Navy Rights and Responsibilities" workshops.

Sgt. Hughes was selected as "Marine of the Year" (Marine Aviation Detachment) for two consecutive years. He received the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal and has been recommended for the Meritorious Commissioning Program. He is currently with the Marine Aviation Detachment stationed at NAS Patuxent River in Maryland.

"Because of my fear of failure, I never allowed myself to be academically challenged. Using the study techniques recommended by MCI, I successfully completing several courses and my self-confidence increased. I realized that I was not limited to a high school diploma. I decided to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and I currently have a 3.92 G.P.A."

Carol A. Berryhill

North Las Vegas, Nevada

. . . career growth through DE

Carol Berryhill spent several years as a legal secretary, performing many of the same jobs as a paralegal but without the same pay. In 1986, after 10 years working in private law firms, Carol joined the corporate law department of a natural gas utility in Las Vegas. She soon realized that she needed the proper educational qualifications in order to progress. Carol chose National Institute for Paralegal Arts and Sciences for her paralegal training.

As a full-time legal secretary, wife, and mother of two stepsons, Carol was able to complete the Paralegal Diploma Program from NIPAS without disrupting her day-to-day activities. She was promoted to the next paralegal position which enhanced her earnings and improved her lifestyle.

In 1995, Carol decided to take the Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) exam given by the National Association of Legal Assistants. She realized that earning this certification would greatly increase her marketability. To qualify to sit for the CLA exam, Carol enrolled in NIPAS's Paralegal Specialized Associate's degree program. She graduated in May 1996, after 16 months with a 97% cumulative grade point average.

"There are numerous benefits from distance education. The greatest advantage for me was time management. I valued being able to tailor the program to my needs and to obtain my degree in a relatively short time compared to attending a traditional college."

Catherine H. Hoffman

Ft. Meyers, Florida

. . . embarks on a new career

At age 40, Catherine Hoffman decided to embark on a new career as a court reporter. She had worked for more than 15 years as a paralegal and was co-owner of a computer company. The distance study program at the Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville offered Catherine the opportunity to work at her own pace and intensity.

Normally a 60-month program, Catherine's ability, determination and self-discipline led her to complete the program in 24 months. During the program, Catherine received the "Frank Sarli Scholarship" award given by the Florida Court Reporters Association for the outstanding student in this field.

Catherine is involved with the Florida Court Reporters Association and the National Court Reporters Association. She also "chats" online in CompuServe's Court Reporters Forum with practicing court reporters, former graduates and current students. Upon graduation, Catherine began work with a major court reporting firm in Ft. Meyers covering trials, depositions, hearings and several types of community and government meetings, all of which require verbatim transcripts of their proceedings.

"The distance study program is an exceptional training platform for becoming a professional and competent court reporter. The Institute has helped me to define my goals and to be a self-motivated and highly accomplished court reporter with the ability to handle any circumstance in a court reporting environment."

Matt Brown

Cochran, Georgia

. . . gained the competitive edge

Matt Brown graduated from high school in 1993. He was listed in the publication, "America's Who's Who Among High School Students." While in high school, Matt began working at a local hospital. His community involvement activities continued after graduation. Matt was a member of the Restoration Board in Cochran, Georgia, and assisted in restoring an old auditorium built in the 1920's. He accepted a position helping at a nursing home where he worked with resident activities. But Matt's love of travel lead him to another career—becoming a flight attendant.

In 1995, Matt contacted the Trans World Travel Academy to learn more about a career as a flight attendant. He loved working with people and traveling, and he know that both were benefits of being a flight attendant. Matt wanted to know more about this very competitive position and increase his ability to secure a career.

He enrolled in TWTA's course, "The Basics of Becoming a Flight Attendant," and graduated four months later with a 99% average. Within weeks of graduation, Matt was hired by TWA.

"Becoming a flight attendant is very competitive. Thanks to TWTA's distance education course and the three day residency program, I gained the knowledge and facts about the career I wanted. I am now employed with TWA as a flight attendant working in New York. I owe it all to TWTA."

David T. Drum
Brunswick, Ohio

. . . inspires others with fitness

In addition to his demanding full time job for the U.S. Coast Guard, Petty Officer David T. Drum completed a record number of difficult distance education courses with the U.S. Coast Guard Institute. During his brief career with the Coast Guard, David has also earned the Department of Transportation's Gold Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Coast Guard's awards for Good Conduct, Marksman Rifle and Marksman Pistol.

David voluntarily refitted his unit's weight room with updated equipment and worked with the food service specialist to present nutritional information and health conscious meals to the crew. He motivated the command and crew by instituting a proper warm-up period and a one mile run prior to beginning any organized sport. He was assigned a mark of 7 (the highest mark) in Health and Well Being performance dimension of enlisted performance evaluation form.

David's commanding officer states that he is "a credit to himself, his unit, and to the Coast Guard." David is currently stationed at the Law Enforcement Detachment in Mayport, Florida.

"By completing so many courses I've been able to broaden my knowledge base. This helps me to perform better in all of the facets of my job. I believe that everyone should take advantage of the courses offered by the Coast Guard Institute."

Joseph D. Laskowski

Williamstown, New Jersey

. . . once again an outstanding graduate

Joseph D. Laskowski has done it again. In 1989, he was selected as an Outstanding Graduate for his completion of Cleveland Institute of Electronics' Associate Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. Now, he has earned World College's Bachelor in Electronics Engineering Technology. He earned his degree in two years and two months with a 4.0 GPA. Also during that time, he went through two job promotions, one house move, two military active duty periods, and three vacations, all without interrupting his studies.

Joe currently works for the Federal Bureau of Prisons which is under the Department of Justice, United States Government. He is an Engineering Technician at the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Dix, New Jersey. FCI Fort Dix is the largest FCI in the U.S., with more than 3,600 inmates.

Joe was hired as a General Maintenance Worker Supervisor. Soon, he was promoted to Electrical Worker Supervisor, and nine months later, he was promoted to his present position. Joe has also received seven special awards while working for the institution. Joe is also a Chief Engineer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, where he has received multiple letters of commendation and a "Navy Achievement Medal."

"I believe that I am using my new knowledge almost every day in serving the public, and my degree was completed without using any taxpayer's time or money."

Distance Education and Training Council
1601 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-2529
(202) 234-5100
e-mail detc@detc.org
http://www.detc.org